



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (INTELLIGENCE)

1 November 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Intelligence, USAF

SUBJECT : Exploitation of AQUATONE Intelligence Information

PROBLEM

To set forth the basic requirements for establishing and operating a new office in the Central Intelligence Agency under the Deputy Director (Intelligence) to process intelligence information derived from Project AQUATONE.

FACTS ABOUT THE PROBLEM

FLOW. The flow of photography from Project AQUATONE is expected to begin in April 1956. The volume of intelligence items will at first be small, but it is expected that the volume will rise sharply in a short period of time reaching a peak in October of 1956.

ORGANIZATION. The mission of the new office will be to screen, interpret, index and systematically file the flow of information from AQUATONE. The high quality of aerial photography anticipated will cover areas of the USSR that have hitherto proven inaccessible. In order to justify the vast sums expended for its collection, it seems essential that the Agency develop a capability for utilizing the photography to its maximum in fulfilling intelligence requirements. As planned, the new office will be created with the present Photo Intelligence Division of the Office of Research and Reports (ORR) serving as its nucleus. Supporting it will be a new Office of Central Reference (OCR) Register to manage the files and provide machine indexing and reference facilities.

PHOTO INTERPRETATION. As a service of common concern the office will prepare coverage plots for the photography. This is an important and essential first step because future location and use of the photography will rely heavily on its accuracy. All plots will be reproduced and

distributed to the participating agencies of the IAC. After plotting, the next step will consist of rapid scanning of all incoming photography. This examination, and its tabulation and spot, critical intelligence reports, will provide general information on the area covered together with a brief index of the subjects contained in the photography (e.g., factories, rail yards, airfields, etc.). The disseminated reports will permit evaluation of coverage of existing Agency targets, identify targets requiring additional coverage, and serve as an announcement of new coverage. Finally, the office will prepare, on a request basis within the Agency, detailed photo-interpretation reports and studies to meet specific research and operational demands.

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS. The OCR Register will keep files of the original negatives, positive prints, and of all reports and studies generated by the photo-interpretation process. It will control the distribution of incoming material to the Photo Interpretation analysts, and arrange for the reproduction and distribution of reports. Its primary function, however, will be to provide a rapid reference retrieval system. And, it plans to do this so that photography can be found one of three ways: (1) by its basic flight data, (2) by the area covered, or (3) by subject, according to the USAF Bombing Encyclopedia target code. The Register will also serve as a focal point for coordinating exploitation with the participating agencies, for making new information available to CIA research and operating personnel, and for relating the resources of the other OCR Registers and the CIA Library to any given request problem.

MINICARD. It is obvious that AQUATONE photography will be of considerable bulk. CIA experience has proven that large file collections grow unwieldy, require constant additions of space and equipment, demand more and more manpower, and fail to meet service deadlines. Consequently, much attention has been given to the possible application of Eastman Kodak MINICARD equipment to reduce the bulk and provide a high-speed means of finding indexed data; the Agency has already approved the purchase of a set of MINICARD equipment for its intelligence document collection.

After careful study of the application of MINICARD to the problem of handling serial photographs, it was concluded that it was premature to buy a large-scale MINICARD installation at this time. MINICARD is still untested, delivery schedules of equipment are very fluid, and the use of the system in April was not at all certain; in theory, however, the application makes good sense.

Every effort will therefore be made to move forward to a complete MINICARD installation as soon as practicable. As a start, however, it is recommended that a minimum facility be established to test and operate. The Eastman Kodak Co. has indicated a willingness to furnish technical guidance, through contract personnel, to assist in getting an installation of this type underway.

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STAFFING REQUIREMENTS (1 March 1956 to 30 June 1956). Although it is estimated that approximately [redacted] positions may be required ultimately to handle adequately the anticipated peak workload, it is proposed to initially staff the activity on a pilot-scale basis during the period 1 March through 1 June 1956 at the rate of about [redacted] per month. The requirements will then be reviewed in June, 1956 based on operating experience to date to determine the minimum additional staff required to process the peak load anticipated by 1 September. The initial staff requirement of [redacted] additional ceiling positions is based on an expected workload of approximately [redacted] items per day by the close of FY 1956 requiring the following:

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	Present	Additional	Personnel	Required	Total
	Ceiling				

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Subject to agreement with the appropriate services, it is contemplated that military personnel would be welcome as integrated members of this office.

FUND REQUIREMENTS - FY 1956 (1 March 1956 to 30 June 1956).

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SPACE REQUIREMENTS. It is estimated that approximately [REDACTED] square feet will be required by 1 March 1956 to house the pilot-scale operation through 30 June 1956. This includes provision for the staff of [REDACTED] and minimum storage requirements for the initial period. The expansion of the pilot-scale operation during the summer months to handle the anticipated peak workload in September will require approximately an additional [REDACTED] square feet making a total requirement of about [REDACTED] square feet for personnel and storage.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have been submitted to the Director of Central Intelligence.

1. That the Deputy Director (Intelligence) be authorized to establish a facility to process intelligence to be received from certain special projects which should begin to yield a flow of information beginning about 1 June 1956.
2. That the facility initially be on the minimum scale likely to be required during the first few months of its operation, taking account of the possibility of subsequent expansion if and when a larger requirement materializes.
3. That funds estimated at approximately [REDACTED] be authorized for the facility for the remainder of the current fiscal year with the understanding that the Deputy Director (Intelligence) will absorb costs to the greatest extent possible within the current allocation to the Deputy Director (Intelligence) area.
4. That requirements be reviewed at the close of the current fiscal year based on operating experience trends to determine additional minimum staff requirements to process the peak load anticipated by the fall of 1956.

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REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE

Without asking you to pass in detail on the foregoing proposal, it is the Director's desire that we have your views as to the appropriateness of CIA's undertaking the work envisaged in this proposal. It should be emphasized that this organization will not engage in target analysis or detailed military evaluation but will direct its efforts, over and above initial plotting, scanning and indexing, to fields in which the Agency now has a community-recognized responsibility such as economic, geographic and basic scientific intelligence.

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ROBERT AMORY, JR.